

Work to Begin on N-12/Sparks River Road – South of Sparks

April 6, 2020 (Ainsworth, Neb.) — Weather permitting, work will begin April 13 on N-12/Sparks River Road, south of Sparks, according to the Nebraska Department of Transportation.

Paulsen Inc., of Cozad, Nebraska has the \$2,825,516 contract. The work begins at the junction of N-12/Sparks River Road and proceeds approximately 3.3 miles south. Work includes grading and asphalt paving of Sparks River Road, portions of Sparks River Road will be closed to thru traffic. Detours will be posted for Niobrara River access. Anticipated completion is mid-summer 2020. Motorists are asked to drive cautiously near construction zones and to expect delays.

New library hours

The Keya Paha County Library will be open on Friday afternoons from 1:00 PM until 5:00 PM until further notice. Stop by and check out your local library and dig in to some books, but please remember to safely social distance yourself from other library guests.

Alumni Banquet tentatively rescheduled for July 25

As recommendations from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) mandate, the Keya Paha County Alumni Association has chosen to postpone the annual banquet.

In hopes that directed health measures will be lifted by this summer, the Alumni Association has elected to postpone the annual banquet to Saturday, July 25th. This is only a tentative date at this time for the event, and additional information will be shared as that date draws closer.

The Alumni Association asks that alumni help share this with classmates who may not be aware of these changes.

Directed Health Measure issued for Keya Paha County

During the afternoon of Wednesday, April 1st, it was officially announced that the North Central District Health Department (NCDHD) area would now be under Nebraska's Directed Health Measure (DHM) until May 11th, unless renewed, extended, or terminated. Keya Paha County is included in the NCDHD region.

Other counties in the NCDHD region include Cherry, Brown, Rock, Boyd, Holt, Antelope, Knox, and Pierce. Currently, all 93 counties in Nebraska are under the DHM.

The following are orders, relative to Keya Paha County, under the DHM which all persons must comply by:

1. Gatherings of more than 10 people in a single room or space at the same time, excluding staff, are prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, daycare and in-home daycare facilities, gyms, salons, meeting halls, libraries or any other confined indoor or outdoor spaces. This also includes weddings, funerals, and other indoor and outdoor events.

This DOES NOT include normal operations such as office environments, grocery stores, election offices and polling places on election day, family residences housing ten or more people, state, county, and city operations, and events where members of the media may need to be present.

Food and beverage sales are restricted to carry-out, drive through, and delivery only. This also includes liquor, beer, and wine sales, which are restricted to carry-out and delivery sales only.

2. Elective medical and dental surgeries are prohibited, meaning procedures that are scheduled in advance because they do not involve a medical or dental emergency.

3. People who test positive for COVID-19, or have the following symptoms: fever of 100.4 or above, sudden cough or sudden shortness of breath, and people who reside with someone who has tested positive or have the above symptoms must home-quarantine, unless quarantined in a health care facility, for at least 14 days from the date

of the positive test or start of symptoms.

The home-quarantine of other household members may be discontinued 7 days after the original person has been released from home-quarantine. However, household members must continue to self monitor for an additional 7 days.

An individual, including members of the individual's household, who have tested positive for an alternative diagnosis, such as influenza or seasonal allergies, are NOT subject to quarantine under this Order.

4. ALL counties in Nebraska are ordered to cease in-person instruction for school until May 31, 2020, unless renewed, extended, or terminated. This includes extra-curricular activities EXCEPT for remote learning, meal distribution, distribution of school materials and supplies, and building maintenance.

Failure to comply with the Order will result in legal action. To view the complete

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KPCS closed for remainder of school year

Keya Paha County Schools will remain closed for the rest of the 2019-2020 school year. This came into effect after the Directed Health Measure was ordered for all Nebraska schools mandating that they cease all in-person instruction until May 31, 2020.

Teachers will continue to provide education via eLearning. K-11 students will continue through May 15 while the seniors last day of eLearning will be May 1.

The school will continue to offer Grab and Go meals with the same schedule and ordering procedure through May 15.

The graduation date of May 3 will not take place. An alternative ceremony and/or traditional ceremony are being discussed, but with the uncertainty of the virus, a date is not set in stone.

All spring practices and competitions in the NSAA have been cancelled for the 2019-2020 school year.

If you have any questions, call the high school at 402-497-3501.

Central Valley Ag, Farmers Ranchers Cooperative announce merger

York, NE & Ainsworth, NE- Farmers Ranchers Cooperative membership votes to approve unification with Central Valley Ag (CVA). After a series of informational meetings, accounting firm Gardiner + Company certified the owners of Farmers Ranchers approved the merger with CVA by a majority of 88%. The unified cooperative will retain the Central Valley Ag name and be headquartered in York, Nebraska with Carl Dickinson serving as President/CEO.

"We are pleased that Farmers Ranchers members have voted to unify. Both Boards felt strongly that unification would make us stronger and bring additional

value to the members of both cooperatives. The results of the Farmers Ranchers vote support this," said Dave Beckman, CVA Board Chairman. "Central Valley Ag has built a foundation, ensuring a promising future of service and value to its members in agriculture."

Initial merger discussions between the cooperatives began in January 2020, with the respective boards individually approving the merger in February after a successful merger study was reviewed. Farmer Ranchers voting took place by mail in ballot and the final tally of votes was completed April 1.

"We are confident that

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COVID-19 case confirmed in Cherry County

On April 3, 2020 North Central District Health Department (NCDHD) was made aware of the first positive COVID-19 case in Cherry County.

North Central District Health Department initiated contact investigations and was able to quickly determine this case is not due to community spread. It has been identified that this case is due to close contact with an individual who has tested positive with COVID-19 that is not in the NCDHD District. The case is at home in self-isolation.

Amid concerns regarding this case, NCDHD then released additional information on April 4th to provide

an update. The release states: NCDHD would like to address growing concerns to the community of Cherry County due to the notice of the first positive COVID-19 case in the county. NCDHD initiated a thorough contact investigation and determined this case is not due to community spread. This case was quickly identified to be due to close contact with an individual who has tested positive with COVID-19 that is not in the NCDHD district.

The case has been in quarantine at home for five (5) days PRIOR to symptom onset per NCDHD recommendations. The case remains

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